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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments to oppose modification to the Roadless Rule

Dear U.S. Forest Service,

While I agree with the stock comments from organizations like the Audubon society, I think it is important for each submission to have its own personal touch.

Many people will attack this rule change/exemption from a political viewpoint, but I do not find this helpful. What I think is a better argument is to simply do an interest balancing approach.

I completely understand the economic incentives of opening roadways through the Tongass National Forest. I do not wish to devalue or demonize them. I think it's important to remember the irreversible nature

decision, however.

Tongass is undoubtedly a critical forest, both as a carbon sink and as a bastion of untouched wilderness. Regardless of what is happening in the Amazon, which may or may not increase the international need for preservation of such forests, this rule change simply does not adequately consider the future ramifications.

Economic incentives are always worthy of consideration, but they simply do not warrant a possibility catastrophic decision like this.

Sincerely,

Ragan Whitlock

[Position]